

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 01016 040201Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 /057 W

-----111155 040921Z /21

R 030942Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9774

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1016

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, SN, KN

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE COOL TO VISIT OF NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED FROM MINDEF SOURCES THAT GOS IS RELUCTANT TO RECEIVE NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION HEADED BY VICE PRIMER AND MINISTER OF TRADE KONG JIN TAE. KOREANS HAD REQUESTED VISIT 3-6 MARCH FOLLOWING THEIR KUALA LUMPUR STOP. GOS REPLIED THAT THESE DATES WERE INCONVENIENT, BUT THAT IT MIGHT CONSIDER 6-8 MARCH. SINGAPOREAN HOPE, ACCORDING TO MINDEF SOURCES, WAS THAT KOREANS WOULD FIND THIS SUFFICIENTLY INCONVENIENT TO CANCEL VISIT.

2. GOS RELUCTANCE, ESPECIALLY OF FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM, TO TALK TO NORTH KOREANS, APPEARS BASED ON GENERAL GOS DISTASTE FOR PYNONGYANG REGIME, INCLUDING ITS SUPPORT FOR TERRORISTS. (SIMILAR FACTOR INVOLVED IN RECENT REFUSAL OF CUBAN REQUEST FOR RECIPROCAL OPENING OF TRADE MISSIONS.) PROBABLY ALSO INVOLVED IS GOS FEAR THAT PRESENCE OF RELATIVELY HIGH RANKING NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS IN DELEGATION, IN COMBINATION WITH PLANNED

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VISIT OF NORTH KOREAN CULTURAL GROUPS, WOULD GIVE THE DPRK TOO VISIBLE PROFILE IN COMPARISON ROK AS WELL AS WITH OTHER COMMUNIST POWERS. FURTHER, ALTHOUGH ROK IS A VALUED TRADE PARTNER, SINGAPOREANS NOT TOO INTERESTED IN SEEKING EXPANDED TRADE WITH NORTH KOREANS IN VIEW LATTER'S PROBABLY NEED FOR CREDITS AND THEIR DEADBEAT REPUTATION IN REPAYMENT. EXTENSION OF CREDIT COULD ALSO PUT GOS IN AWKWARD POSITION WITH SUCH DPRK

CREDITORS AS JAPAN.

3. IF NORTH KOREANS ARE DETERMINED TO COME DESPITE GOS RELUCTANCE,
IT IS UNLIKELY THEY WILL BE DETERRED BY GOS REQUEST FOR
DELAY.
HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP01016
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780099-0248
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803109/aaaadola.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3123973
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINGAPORE COOL TO VISIT OF NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION
TAGS: PGOV, SN, KN
To: STATE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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